



NEWS RELEASE

<http://wildlandfire.az.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Southwest Fire Restrictions Hotline 1-877-864-6985

Dry Conditions Trigger Fire Restrictions in Southeast Arizona

Tucson, Ariz. (May 20, 2013) --- Effective Wednesday, May 22, the Gila District of the Bureau of Land Management, all districts of Coronado National Forest, Saguaro National Park, Coronado National Memorial, Chiricahua National Monument, Fort Bowie National Historic Site, Tumacacori National Historical Park, and the Arizona State Forestry Division will implement campfire and smoking restrictions in southeastern Arizona.

Beginning May 22, 2013, and until rescinded, the following are prohibited:

- Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove other than in a developed campsite or picnic area where grills are provided.
- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site/improved site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

Fireworks are always prohibited year-round on federal lands.

Violation of restrictions on federal lands is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor, by a fine of not more than \$5000 for an individual and up to \$10,000 for an organization; or imprisonment for not more six (6) months or both. Violators also may be held personally responsible for reimbursement of fire suppression costs.

Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns and heaters possessing shut-off devices are allowed. When using a portable stove, make sure the area is clear of grasses and other fine fuels. Prevent stoves from tipping and starting a fire.

Fires in developed campsites or picnic areas where grills are allowed should never be left unattended and should be completely extinguished upon departure. Always, drown, stir, and repeat until the fire is cold to the touch.

Cigarettes should never be thrown out the window of a vehicle. Instead, ashtrays should be used in order to prevent wildfires. Always practice Leave No Trace principles and pack out cigarette butts while hiking or camping.

Maintain spark arrestors and don't run power equipment on windy days. Never park a vehicle over dead grass, the catalytic converter can ignite the vegetation.

Fire conditions as well as localized closures and restrictions are subject to change. Because tribal, federal, state, and local mandates are different, they may have some differences in their restriction notices. For a more detailed explanation concerning agency restrictions and fire information in general, please contact the nearest land management agency office where you plan to work or play, visit <http://wildlandfire.az.gov> or call the toll free Southwest Fire Restrictions Hotline 1-877-864-6985.

###